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January 22, 2002

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Don Ms. Hesco.

I am writing in support of the proposed settlement agreement in the United States v. Microsoft case. The antitrust laws were meant to protect consumers, not to stop market competition.

As a smidl business owner, I believe this proposal will not penalize other competing operating systems. This proposed settlement encourages more competition and greater innovation. All new Microsoft operating systems, including Windows XP, would have to include a mechanism that readily allows end users to remove or re-enable Microsoft's middleware products, such as the Internet web browser.

We need to be encouraging the technology sector, which is critical to our economic recovery. This agreement is good for the technology industry, the economy and consumers

Sincerely,

Evan J. Boxer President

EJB/dgb